FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 APRIL 1987

Libyan Raid Anniversary

Massive rallies and marches were held on 14 and 15 April to mark the first anniversary of the U.S. raid on Libya. Tripoli television carried live relays from Banghazi, Janzur, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's house in Tripoli. Delegates to a Tripoli peace conference denounced the raid, and a Soviet representative reiterated the USSR's solidarity with Libya, JANA reported. At a march in Tripoli, several of the Libyan leader's children described the night of the bombing, the agency noted. A Tripoli television report showed Al-Qadhdhafi at the Tripoli rally, walking among crowds and shaking hands, and in a tent with a group of children.

Palestinian Talks

A "flurry of negotiations" continued in Algiers between Palestinian factions in a bid to find a compromise formula to regulate the PLO's relations with Egypt, the *Jordan Times* disclosed. The PFLP's Abu 'Ali Mustafa presented a report reviewing his faction's political stands against the PLO since 1982, the paper reported. The report included "extremely candid self-criticism" and Mustafa asked Fatah to make a similar reassessment. According to the paper's sources, the report is a "turning point" in reconciliation talks because it indicates the PFLP is ready to explore formulas for regulating ties with Cairo if there is an agreement on a basis for the PLO's political strategy. The *Jordan Times* also said the DFLP and Palestinian Communist Party are seeking an interfactional agreement — which will not be publicized — to regulate PLO relations with all Arab countries.

In reply to Mustafa's address, Fatah's Salah Khalaf conceded that his group's assessment of PLO political moves "have not been right all the time," the paper noted. In separate interviews with *Al-Anba'*, the DFLP's Nayif Hawatimah said that the "train of unity has taken off toward its last station" and that 90 percent of the political differences have been solved, while PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir noted that the talks "made good progress." Hawatimah added that the only issue remaining concerns PLO relations with Egypt.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, Damascus radio announced. Ibrahimi declined to comment on the talks but according to official sources cited by Paris Radio Monte Carlo, one of the main aims of his visit is to discuss the Palestinian dialogue taking place in Algiers.

Iran-Iraq War

Iran continued the Fath-5 guerilla offensive inside Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province, claiming to have killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqis in the operations, Tehran radio reported. Many heights and towns were liberated and Iraqi bases destroyed, the radio noted. An Iraqi military spokesman, however, denied reports of battles in northern Iraq, maintaining that "what is happening are some minor acts by saboteurs," WAKH reported.

Iran

Gulf Shipping — A Foreign Ministry spokesman described as "surprising" reports that in response to a Kuwaiti request the USSR will lease its tankers to carry oil in the Gulf and provide a naval escort, IRNA reported. The spokesman told the agency that some countries are making moves which will lead to the presence of superpowers in the region, exacerbating tension and resulting in a "very dangerous situation."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview — Referring to hostage-taking in Lebanon, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told *Keyhan* that if the United States returns Iranian property and money it is holding, "we in turn will help you in Lebanon." In an exclusive interview with the paper, the Majlis speaker said Iran holds the United States responsible for actions by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in Iran and if the United States used its influence to stop the group, then it "might expect us to stop the groups in Lebanon." He also reiterated that Iran and the United States can have ordinary relations once Iran is sure there is no U.S. threat against the Islamic revolution.

Israel

In continued disturbances in the Gaza strip, two Rafah residents were wounded by IDF soldiers who fired shots to disperse a demonstration, Jerusalem radio reported. A Katyusha rocket landed in a Galilee settlement, injuring one person, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Israeli aircraft staged a mock raid on Sidon and the camps on 15 April, Beirut radio reported. Israeli boats off the coast south of Beirut shelled an area east of Tyre, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted. Near Tripoli, three Syrian soldiers were killed and one was injured when their vehicle was ambushed and a car bomb exploded in East Beirut killing one person, the radio reported.

Egypt

Military Agreement — The USSR and Egypt have decided to resume military cooperation, Beirut radio reported, citing a news conference by the Soviet envoy in Cairo. According to the agreement, the USSR will supply spare parts for Soviet weapons the Egyptian Army now possesses, the radio said.

New Air Force Officials — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has appointed Major General Muhammad 'Ala' al-Din

Barakat as Air Force commander and Major General Ahmad Nasr as Air Force chief of staff, MENA announced.

DRA-USSR

Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, held talks with Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Economic Relations, Kabul radio reported. Katushev is leading a "high-ranking" Soviet delegation in the DRA for an official working visit, the radio added.

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South Asia

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Keshtmand Holds Talks With USSR's Katushev
LD152005 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met this afternoon with Comrade Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, at the DRA Council of Ministers. During this meeting, on the Afghan side, Comrade Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Niaz Mohammad Aziz, chairman of the State Planning Committee and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of electrical energy; Najibullah Masir, minister of mines and industries; and Gholam Jelani Kargar, head of administrative affairs of the Council of Ministers; and on the USSR side Comrades Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador of the USSR in the DRA; [names indistinct]; Yuriy Petrovich (Chobarov), minister-counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in the DRA; (Yakubov); Aleksandr Georgiyevich Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet embassy in the DRA; (Mikhail Andreyanovich Preshidov), trade representative of the Soviet Union in the DRA; and (Valantine Konstantinovich Oshinova) were present at the meeting. During this meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on the future development of economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and the USSR.

BIA reports that Comrade Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Kabul this morning at the head of a high-ranking Soviet delegation on an official working visit at the invitation of the DRA Government. At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Comrade Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; comrades Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Mohammad Aziz, chairman of the State Planning Committee and deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, a number of ministers of the DRA, Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev; Soviet ambassador in Kabul; Aleksandr Georgiyevich Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet embassy; (Mikhail Andreyanovich Preshidov), trade representative of the Soviet Union in the DRA; and some employees of the Soviet embassy in Kabul.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Aid to Pakistan
LD160730 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Islamabad's pro-American policy of aggression continuing its undeclared war against Afghanistan, Washington is preparing openly to trample under foot the principles of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Reagan administration is trying to ram through Congress a draft new programme for granting 4.02 rpt 4.02 billion-dollar aid to Pakistan. One of the main obstacles in its way is the Symington Amendment which bans aid to countries developing nuclear weapons. However, the White House hopes to by-pass the amendment using the Afghan factor for the purpose. Obviously expressing the views of the U.S. Administration, the time magazine said on March 30 that the strategic importance of Pakistan as [words indistinct] Afghan (mujahedins) is too great to jeopardise it again by stopping the aid.

The White House transparently hinted to Islamabad that if it agreed to a political settlement of the Afghan problem, the USA would stop its military-economic aid to Pakistan. This explains, in particular, Pakistan's non-constructive position, at the indirect Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva. Showing their loyalty to the White House's anti-Afghan plans, the Pakistani military officials gave an order to F-16 fighter-bombers, received by the Pakistani Air Force in the context of the U.S. aid, to shoot down a passenger plane over the Afghan territory on March 30. Its 40 rpt 40 passengers and members of the crew were killed.

That was not the first time that the Pakistani supporters of the rebels and their American advisers resorted to terror in the air. Altogether 129 rpt 129 passengers and members of the crews of the shot down Afghan planes fell victim to acts of (?terrorism) in the air. All these operations were worked out and prepared in Pakistan which has special camps to train Afghan extremists to handle AA missiles.

The delivery of 600 rpt 600 Stingers to Afghan territories shows that the USA regards Pakistan not as a sovereign state but as its military base to which they can send any weapons they want. American newspapers [word indistinct] discussing the deliveries of Stingers [word indistinct] the operations does not concern Islamabad at all. One of the directors of the so-called Federation of American-Afghan Cooperation, Daniel Flynn, recently said that the federation recommended to the CIA leadership to sharply increase deliveries of Stingers, mortars, machineguns, submachineguns, mines and explosives to American friends in Afghanistan. It is necessary, he said, to improve and speed up the transportation of arms to Afghanistan. These recommendations are being fully carried out with Islamabad's taciturn connivance.

However, the delivery of 600 rpt 600 American Stingers to Pakistan for Afghan terrorists jeopardises not only the Afghans using air transport, but also air passengers from other countries. Firstly, about 500 rpt 500 planes of different air lines fly over Afghanistan every month. Secondly, so many missiles of this kind are arriving in Pakistan, *The Washington Post* said on April 5, that the problem of their safe storage has arisen. General John Wickham, U.S. Army chief of staff, expressed his worries that the Stingers might find themselves in the hands of terrorists who might then shoot down a passenger plane. More so, since, the newspaper says, the previously established strict procedure to ensure control is not observed as scrupulously as before.

The only conclusion to be drawn is that Islamabad, fully obedient to Washington, is conducting a pro-American policy of aggression and gangsterism, fraught with the most serious consequences. The present Pakistani rulers will have to answer for this policy before their own people.

Officials Deny Deployments Near PRC Border

BK160903 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP) — Army officials Thursday denied reports that India was mobilising troops along its north-eastern border with China following reports of a Chinese buildup of forces. Reliable sources told *Agence France-Presse*, however, that troops and strategic airbases had been alerted in response to major deployments of Chinese forces in the Autonomous Region of Tibet, which borders, India.

The daily *Times of India* Thursday said in a front-page analysis that at least five Indian fighter squadrons had been positioned in forward areas near the border. The sources said unspecified numbers of Soviet-built MIG-23 combat aircraft had also been moved up.

According to India's army spokesman "normal exercises" were underway in the north-east, but he would not give further details. he denied any troops movements in reaction to reported concentrations of Chinese troops.

India in mid-March launched military exercises, codenamed Chequer Board, at its eastern border, the sources said. They are sheduled to continue during summer.

India's largest forward strategic base in Chabua, in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh State, has been ordered to carry out "surveillance and interception sorties", military sources here said.

Last June, India accused China of intruding into Arunachal Pradesh's remote Sumdorong Chu valley, which Beijing claims is part of China. Beijing claims 90,000 square kilometres (34,700 square miles) of territory held by India, while India claims about half that in a northern border area held by China.

The two countries went to war briefly in 1962 over their border dispute and have since held fruitless talks in 1985 and 1986.

Further talks are due this summer, but no date has been announced.

Beijing has refused to recognise India's recent decision to grant statehood to Arunachal Pradesh, which New Delhi terms interference in India's internal matters.

Booby Trap Found in Train Station, Public Warned

BK160336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Delhi police have issued a fresh warning urging the people not to touch suspicious looking objects like handbags, toys, chief cases and transistors lying unclaimed in public places. This follows discovery of a booby trap loaded with explosives at the crowded New Delhi railway station last evening.

Further on Attempted Bombing

BK160432 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP) — A plot by suspected sikh militants to blow up the Indian capital's main railway station was foiled by minutes when police discovered a drum of liquid explosive wired to a time device, police said here Thursday.

The drum was discovered Wednesday night by a railway police patrol near a waiting hall for second class passengers just nine minutes before it was set to explode, Deputy Commissioner of Police for Crime and Railways Amod Kanth told *Agence France-Presse*.

"We have no doubt it was terrorists (Sikh militants)," he added. "It could have killed hundreds." The style of the operation and the nature of the target — Indian civilians — were among the signs that made police sure Sikhs were responsible, he said.

A bomb squad defused the explosive wrapped in a jute bag and planted next to a public telephone kiosk, he said.

Thousands throng the railway station in central New Delhi at all times and scores wait in the second class passenger hall.

The police department Thursday sounded a warning on All India Radio asking people not to touch "suspicious-looking objects" such as handbags, toys, brief cases and transistors found discharded in public places.

Nearly 50 people were killed in a wave of bombings in the Indian capital in the sumer of 1985. Sikh militants fighting for secession in the northern state of Punjab were blamed. Several Sikhs are awaiting trial.

Death Toll in Uttar Pradesh Violence Rises to 6

BK160318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the death toll in Tuesday's violent incident in Meerut has risen to six. An official spokesman said in Lucknow that following the incidents of stabbing, arson and firing between the two groups of people three persons died on the spot and twenty injured. Our Meerut correspondent reports all bazaars and shops were open yesterday. Additional police has been deployed to maintain law and order.

Strike Called, Security Tightened in West Bengal

BK160338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] In West Bengal, additional security arrangements have been made in Darjeeling and Kurseong in view of the 6-day bundh [strike] called by GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] from today. The district authorities have intensified round the clock police patrol to avoid any untoward incident. The bundh is in protest against Monday's police firing at (Algara) in Kalimpong in which four persons were killed.

Motion To Remove Parliament Speaker Introduced

BK151301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 apr 87

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, the minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, asserted that the speaker has always been impartial, tolerant and dignified in conducting the business of the house. Speaking on an opposition-sponsored motion seeking removal of the speaker, he said Mr Bal Ram Jakhar has been more than fair to the opposition. The motion, tabled by Mr Somnath Chatterji, CPI-M, and 14 other opposition member says: considering the rulings of the speaker, including the one on the 19th of last month on the question of privilege and adjournment motion, the house feels that by denying to the members the right to raise vital constitutional and procedural issues and burning problems, the speaker has ceased to command the confidence of all sections. It says the house resolves that he should be removed from his office.

Referring to the opposition charge, the minister said that the prime minister has been following the provisions of the Article 78 of the Constitution very well in keeping the president informed on important issues. In any case, correspondence between the president and the prime minister is confidential in nature and cannot form the subject matter of a debate. He said some people are trying to play a dangerous game of destabilizing the government. He said the party remains united and is solidly behind the prime minister.

Moving the motion, Mr Somnath Chatterji said that the speaker violated the provisions of the constitution in not allowing the opposition to raise several important issues. Earlier, the motion seeking removal of the speaker was admitted by the deputy speaker, Mr Thambi Durai, as more than 50 members stood up in its support. The house witnessed noisy scenes and verbal exchanges between the opposition and the ruling party members.

Gandhi Calls Motion Saddening

BK151602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister has called upon members of his party to strengthen the national economy and resist the efforts being made to destabilize the political system. Addressing the general body of the Congress-I Party in parliament in New Delhi this morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi stressed the importance of maintaining the strength of the political system. Mr Gandhi referred to the no-confidence motion against the speaker and said it had saddened him. The motion will weaken the institutions if their is a slur on the speaker.

The prime minister told the members that it is important to maintain economic stability, but it is unfortunate that through rumors and baseless allegations efforts have been made to weaken the national economy.

Later, briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the party said 500 members attended the meeting which continued for about 45 minutes. No reference was made to defense probe or Fairfax issue. The prime minister in his speech touched the whole gamut of national and international issue and said India cannot be bought by aid or by transfer of technology. Mr Gandhi made a pointed reference to the recent American decision to waive its laws and rules to heavily arm Pakistan. Why is Pakistan being helped in this fashion, he asked, and added because it is India's neighbor and the arms given to it can be used against India as in the past.

Government Denies Appointing Defense Deal Agent

BK150943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The government has categorically denied appointing any agent to act on its behalf on any defense deal. This was stated by the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, in the Lok Sabha today. He was making a statement on the enquiry ordered by the former defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, into the alleged arrangement to pay a 30 crore rupees commission to an Indian agent by the supplier in a defense deal. Mr Arun Singh assured the house that the most stringent procedures have been laid down to ensure quality and technical parameters to procure defense equipment. He said no equipment is bought without technical certification of acceptability from the concerned service headquarters.

The minister said the prime minister, after assuming office, had reiterated the existing instructions that no commercial negotiations should take place with any nongovernmental agent of a foreign supplier for the purchase of defense equipment. The prime minister, he said, also had directed that foreign governments and suppliers should be told unequivocally about the decision. Mr Arun Singh declared that the prime minister's policy directive has been enforced vigorously by the Department of Defense with satisfactory results. The minister gave details of events leading to the appointment of an enquiry by Mr V.P. Singh into the defense deal. He said one of the embassies abroad sent a secret telegram on 25 February stating that an Indian agent was involved in a defense deal and an arrangement had been made for the payment of a 7 percent commission by the supplier. The telegram had not mentioned the name of the agent or the amount of money involved. Mr Arun Singh said the papers on the subject were put up to Mr V.P. Singh on 3 March. Eight days later the then defense minister ordered that the matter should be referred to the Directorate of Enforcement for investigation of violations of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and to the Central Board of Direct Taxes for possible violations of income tax regulations. Mr V.P. Singh also desired that the Economic Intelligence Bureau of the finance ministry should be requested to carry out a systematic study of the modus operandi of all agents, Indian and foreign, so that firm action could be taken against them as necessary. Later, Mr V.P. Singh further directed that the committee, under the chairmanship of the defense secretary, should report the modus operandi of foreign and Indian agents in defense deals. However, the news of the enquiry had appeared in the newspapers before the concerned file could be put up to the prime minister. This gave rise to speculations, Mr Arun Singh added.

Earlier, the house rejected a motion moved by Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI, and some other opposition members for the suspension of

the question hour and taking up the special discussion listed in the agenda on the enquiry. The motion put to vote by the deputy speaker, Mr Thambi Durai, was rejected by 267 votes against and 58 in favor.

'Unruly Scenes' Erupt During Fairfax Debate

BK150929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The Rajya Sabha chairman, Mr Venkataraman, today adjourned the house for 20 minutes shortly after question hour following unruly scenes. Earlier, when the chairman, Mr Venkataraman, called in the Bhartiya Janata Party member, Mr L.K. Advani, to move the call-attention motion on the Fairfax issue, opposition members demanded that the prime minister should be present in the house. There was shouting and counter-shouting from both the Treasury benches and the opposition. At this stage, the chairman adjourned the house. After about 20 minutes when the house reassembled Mr Advani moved his call-attention motion tabled by him along with 16 others.

The minister of state for finance, Mr Brahma Dutt said in a statement that the directorate of enforcement authorized Fairfax to collect the information regarding certain cases of violations of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. He said on the basis of an informal understanding, payment was to be made to the group on providing (?crucial) evidence and documents to the directorate. No such information had so far been made available to the government and no payment made to Fairfax.

During the discussion, which was marked by noisy interruptions, the leader of the motion criticized the government for instituting the judicial enquiry. He said by doing this it has tried to cover the main issue of illegal holding of funds abroad by certain persons. The debate is in progress.

Zial Singh: News Agencies Hurting Third World

BK160238 Hong Kong AFP in English 0207 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP) — The developed countries are trying to destabilise the Third World with a disinformation campaign, aided and abetted by world news agencies, Indian President Zial Singh said on Wednesday. Mr. Singh, quoted by the *Press Trust of India* (PTI), spoke of the "dangers" caused by the developed countries' control of major wire services, and asked Indian news agencies to counter them through effective competition.

Speaking in Bangalore, southern India after formally opening a new office building for the *United News of India* (UNI) Agency, he said that the developed states were practising "information imperialism." Their aim was to destabilise the Third World, and this posed a grave threat to humanity because "mental pollution caused by disinformation is more dangerous to humanity than environmental pollution," the president said.

Mr Singh did not however give any examples to back up his charge. The president said he wanted Indian agencies to "spread in the world at large" to check the threat, PTI said.

Tiwari Visits Harare for Nonaligned Meeting

For reportage on the visit to Harare by External Affairs Minister N.D. Tiwari for the 2-day meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's special committee on Palestine, see the Southern Africa section of the 15 April Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SRI LANKA

UK Official Meets Jayewardene, Others 13 Apr

BK141234 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] British minister of state of the home office, David Waddington, called on President J.R. Jayewardene, at president's cottage at Nuwara Eliya last morning. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the national security ministers, Lalith Athulathmudali, also participated in the talks. The British minister who is in charge of immigration also had a round of talks with Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed. Mr Waddington is in Sri Lanka to inspect immigration procedures at the British High Commission in Colombo and also to acquaint himself with the situation in Sri Lanka, particularly with regard to the issue of asylum seekers.

Militants Carry Out 4 More Lamp Post Murders

BK141447 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1019 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Colombo, April 14 (PTI) — The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were alleged to have carried out four more lamp post executions of 'Tamil civilians' in eastern Ampara and Batticaloa Districts, taking the total of such killings to nine, during the past 48 hours, a government communique issued here on Tamil-Sinhala new year day, today said.

All the executions it was alleged took place on April 12 — five of them at a village in Trincomalee, one in Ampara and three in Batticaloa.

The common reason given for such executions was that the persons who included a woman and 17 year old pre-university student, were 'traitors', to the LTTE. A note to that effect was pinned on their bodies, the communique alleged.

Meanwhile, the Tamil militants, according to the communique attacked yesterday evening the Land Commissioners Department at Kiriibbanwewa, in northern Vavuniya District inflicting injuries to three government watchers.

The watchers also fired back compelling the terrorists to flee with their wounded, the communique added.

The militants also fired mortar shells towards army sentry posts at Velvettithurai, as they fell short of the camp, the security forces did not retaliate, the communique claimed.

LTTE Says TULF Actions Not Allowed in Tamil Eelam

BK150615 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] A ranking spokesman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] told foreign journalists that the LTTE is not ready to support any kind of talks as long as the Sri Lankan Government refuses to accept the principle that the north and the east are the motherland of the Tamils. The foreign journalists had gone to Jaffna to interview the spokesman.

This interview further revealed that the LTTE will never allow the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] to engage in political activities in the Tamil Eelam area. The spokesman said that it is only because of their past activities that Tamil Eelam has fallen into its present condition.

The spokesman also said that the chief commander of the LTTE for the Jaffna region, Sadasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, is still under treatment in Jaffna for his injuries.

The journalists, quoting medical sources, reported that Kittu has been under treatment since his left leg was amputated. They also said that the eight (?kidnapped) soldiers have been taken to a remote place from Jaffna camp.

Gunfire, Grenade Bursts Heard in Jaffna

BK151025 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1003 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 15 (LANKA-PUWATH) — Machine-gun fire, bursting of grenades and rifle fire was heard in the city of Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka during the past three days, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. Machine-gun fire and explosions were also heard in the Jaffna Town and in Tholakotty and Vasavilan areas.

It is feared that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists are killing Tamil youths who have not joined them. Terrorists also launched a rifle attack on the telecommunication building in Jaffna.

Troops did not retaliate as the sniping was inaccurate.

Meanwhile, in the Trincomalee District, eastern Sri Lanka at Thoppur early this morning mortars were fired by terrorists at the security forces camp, seriously wounding one soldier. [passage omitted]

Tamil Radio Explains Suspension of Broadcasts

BK150859 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 7 Apr 87

["Special Announcement"]

[Text] The Voice of Tamil Eelam organization, which suspended broadcasts for the past few weeks, resumed its programs a few days ago and has decided on some useful new approaches for the benefit of the people. Our broadcasts were suspended during those few weeks to observe the emergency situation arising out of the recent attacks and counterattacks between the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and to make a full study of the events. Having clearly told the people from the beginning how they should act during the days of military action, we suspended operations during the recent military action so as to concentrate more on expanding our activities. We can say that the authorities' military activities following the

fuel ban and the economic embargo constitute the main (?thrust of the operation) undertaken by the Jayewardene government to crush the struggle of the Jaffna people for their homeland. However, it was nothing more than an attempt, for the goals of Jayewardene's associates were not achieved by this operation. On the contrary, it has only served to create new headaches for them. The recent military action has only served to allow the people of Tamil Eelam to march ahead with more determination and clarity of purpose in the struggle for their national and social rights.

The Eelam Tamils have faced racial segregation and unbearable hardship for the past 40 years. For them economic sanctions are not a new experience and as a result the Jaffna people have enlightened Jayewardene in a fitting manner. Furthermore, the Sri Lankan Government has come under diplomatic pressure from the Indian Government, forcing it to agree to cut back military action and relax the intensity of the fuel ban and expressing an interest in peace talks. At present, an atmosphere conducive to peace talks is being created and the Indian mediators have announced their willingness to undertake mediation efforts.

Let us look at what our stand must be in the future. We have stressed in the past that there can only be a political solution to the problem of the people of Tamil Eelam under a united Sri Lanka and neither the Sri Lankan army nor the LTTE can succeed militarily. Although the Sri Lankan Army has good weapons and equipment and adequate training, it lacks certain skills and military ethics. Although the freedom fighter groups of Tamil Eelam, including the LTTE, have far fewer arms than the Sri Lankan Army, they are capable of confronting and winning on their own soil. Under these circumstances, only the innocent people are affected by the ebb and flow of warfare between the Sri Lankan Army, which has set up its operational camps in the area, and the LTTE which has besieged them from (?three sides). As a consequence, children, (?women) and old people are killed. The LTTE's use of hospitals, temples, and schools has made them a target for the Sri Lankan Government forces, causing the death of innocent people.

As we have already said, it is not prudent for the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam to indulge in military activities as it does not have adequate weapons or military training. However, we have made suggestions about how to resolve the sad incidents occurring in our country through the Voice of Tamil Eelam. The Voice of Tamil Eelam requests the intelligentsia of Jaffna to participate enthusiastically in the struggle for the free Tamil homeland based on Marxist-Leninist principles. We cannot achieve our goal if the ideology of the intellectuals of Jaffna — who are not found with the LTTE — do not become the backbone of our struggle. We once again stress that the support and hard work of the people of Tamil Eelam are necessary for us to consolidate our strength in a constructive manner and to work sincerely, to achieve a just and lasting political settlement when (?favorable) conditions arise.

Soviet Response on Escort Request 'Surprising'

LD151609 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 15 IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman described here Wednesday the Soviet position vis-a-vis a Kuwaiti request to provide a naval escort and lease its tankers to carry its oil in the Persian Gulf as "surprising". The spokesman warned that Persian Gulf countries themselves are the only righteous ones entitled to interfere in regional issues and decide on topics concerning shipping in this strategic waterway.

Kuwait recently asked the U.S. and Soviet Union to fly their flags on its tankers carrying oil in the Persian Gulf. Moscow supported the decision. Certain regional rulers are making moves which would lead to presence of the superpowers in the region, said the spokesman, adding that such requests would not defuse regional tension but rather exacerbate the tension resulting in a "very dangerous situation".

Those countries concerned about regional security and want neutrality in the imposed war should be aware that regional Muslims will not accept a military intervention in the Persian Gulf, the spokesman said. "Security should be maintained for all or none of the Persian Gulf countries," he noted. Iraqi regime, said the spokesman, is aiming to create tension and spread it throughout the region in order to involve third countries and consequently get rid of a certain downfall.

Such measures are not a political solution to the regional issues, but a way rooted in the Iraqi regime anad engineered by its supporters, the spokesman said. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will naturally face these and other plots resolutely," he stressed.

Musavi Reviews Past Year, Discusses Future

LD151920 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpt] In today's joint meeting between cabinet ministers and the country's governors, Prime Minister Musavi analyzed the situation in the country in the course of the year ending 20 March 1987, and the performance of the executive machinery. He also explained the government's policy for the current year.

Pointing to the government's and the nation's resistance against foreign plots and pressures, the prime minister said: The government managed to be successful last year, which was one of the most difficult years of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Its success made the enemies of the revolution and of the Islamic Republic despondent. The executive machinery also suffered a lot of pressure and through the strength of its programs and plannings it displayed a lot of power in confronting problems.

In connection with the government's plans for the victorious continuation of the imposed war, Mr Musavi said: In the course of the past year, the directors and persons in charge of implementing programs dealt with the task of the imposed war with greater power and all-round effort and participation. Not only did they provide supplies and relief to the combatants of Islam, but they made the all-round presence of the people on the battlefronts a priority in their programs.

The prime minister stressed: The strength of the government's confrontation with difficulties during the past year has demonstrated that the Islamic Republic and Iran's system is capable of standing up to the great problems associated with the war, shortages of financial resources and unforeseen events such as floods. It is also capable of following, all the more powerfully, the fundamental objectives of the Islamic revolution, and of diligence in the realization of these objectives. This is an important subject which will serve as valuable experience for future generations.

Referring to the government's policies in the coming year, Mr Musavi noted: By relying on God, the almighty, and with the unstinting cooperation of the people and reliance on valuable experiences and determined morale, the government will continue its duties alongside the Islamic revolution and the people. He added: At present, our resistant people and the government, especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors, have found greater preparedness and strength to combat hardships, and taking note of the existing trend, efforts should be made to establish greater cooperation and coordination between the government and the people.

The prime minister emphasized: The government, in cooperation with all other relevant persons, has given priority in its program for the current year to the policy of helping the deprived and the helpless, and will use all its efforts in drawing up economic plans, taking into consideration present circumstances, so that less pressure will be brought to bear on the deprived.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Musavi said that the most important victory is in the theaters of war. He added: Today, thanks to the blessings of the glorious victories of the combatants of Islam, especially after the Karbala'-5 operations, the downfall of Saddam and the disintegration of the Ba'th Party of Iraq is the topic of conversation everywhere and the question of Saddam's successor and his replacement by a coalition government is being broached. But the imam of the ummah, in his usual decisive and rare manner, has clarified the policy-line of the Islamic Republic system which is: the uprooting of the Ba'th party and of Saddam from Iraq.

In conclusion, Mr Musavi remarked on the need for unity between various strata; on the need to make efforts to stage all future elections better; and he provided guidelines on lessening paper-work and seeing to the deprived and the helpless. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Casualties Rise to 610 in Fath-5 Operations

LD151140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The communique of Khatem ol-Anbiya', headquarters for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, was issued today as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Oh steadfast ummah, Oh heroic Iranian nation. On the auspicious anniversary of the blessed birthday of the Saviour of Humanity [the hidden imam], combatants under the command of Ramazan

headquarters, composed of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, started the Fath-5 offensive in the early hours of Tuesday, 14 April, under the holy codename Ya Sahib al-Zaman Adrekni [Oh Lord of the Age Come to My Assistance].

During these operations, which were carried out in order to destroy the forces, the bases, and equipment of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi Regime, and in order to strengthen the activities of Iraqi Kurdish fighters, the heroic fighters of Islam attacked the positions of the Ba'thist forces in Sulaymaniyah, Chuwartah, and Mavat [as heard] regions inside the Sulaymaniyah province in Iraq. They inflicted numerous successful blows and losses upon the Ba'thist forces.

The results of these brave guerrilla operations are as follows: The destruction of a television transmitter aerial in Sulaymaniyah Province; the destruction of strategic enemy bases in Tanjah 'Ali and Azmar Dagh heights; the destruction of the base of 39th Division of the I corps; the destruction of the posts and bases of the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy in heights 1400, 1473, 2176, 1955 and 1925 of Shakh-Gojar [as heard] range; enemy bases on heights 1419, and 1508 in Olagh-lu [as heard] region; and the destruction of the base of the Ba'thist enemy around Surah Qalat town.

During these victorious operations, the fighters of Islam killed or wounded more than 610 of the Ba'thist forces and captured 98, who are being evacuated from Iraqi territory.

Paying tribute to the unprecedented heroism of the fighters of Ramazan headquarters, the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, 75th Zafar Brigade, and 5 brigades from the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, who are taking part in these operations, hopes that the Khatem ol-Anbiya' base together with the forces of Saheb al-Zaman [which are being despatched from various cities to the fronts] in the near future, they can present considerable victories to the Muslim ummah.

Shelling of Iraqi Cities Denied

LD151532 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA — Spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically refuted Wednesday Iraqi regime's claims that Iranian forces had shelled the cities of Basra and Al Qurnah.

The spokesman termed the Iraqi allegations as "pure lies" and said that Iranian forces have not shelled Iraqi cities.

14 Vessels Searched

LD151629 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA — Fourteen foreign cargo ships and tankers were searched by Iranian Navy in the Hormuz Strait Tuesday and Wednesday, but were allowed to set sail since no suspicious cargo was discovered on board, according to the Joint Staff Communique No. 2807 released here Wednesday.

The communique said that an Iraqi motorised column came under heavy Iranian artillery fire in Marivan operational theater and was scattered in the region, suffering considerable casualties and losses.

Parts of the Iraqi frontline positions and heavy gun emplacements were demolished in Bakhtaran and Ilam regions with enemy forces suffering some losses and casualties. An Iraqi munitions dump was also set afire in a western front.

An Iraqi patrol unit was checked and brought under artillery fire by the Muslim combatants in a western height early Tuesday and was forced to flee leaving some casualties.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in southern fronts Tuesday, raging more heavily in Yabis operational region where Iranian tank fire destroyed several Iraqi tanks. Movement of an Iraqi motorised column was also halted in Chazabeh.

According to the communique, Iranian gendarmerie forces destroyed several Iraqi gun emplacements and two military vehicles and killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers when they targeted Iraqi positions in parts of western and southern fronts Tuesday.

Heights Liberated in Combat

LD151809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] According to the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, in the course of the Fath-5 operations the mighty combatants of the Ramazan headquarters of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, accompanied and supported by the heroic warriors of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, succeeded in dealing heavy blows and casualties on the Ba'thist forces. In the course of these operations Islam's forces destroyed a number of APC's and vehicles and several enemy posts and succeeded in either killing or wounding more than 1,000 troops of the Iraqi regime and in taking prisoner another number, of whom 200 have already been evacuated behind the front.

In the course of these operations heights nos 1726, 1552, 1230, 1179, 1418 and 1248 of the Karmawand heights were liberated. Similarly the hamlets of Baliq, Kalalah, Ulaghlu, Kaplun, and Malunah were liberated and mopped up.

In the course of these engagements several enemy 22-mm artillery pieces, mortars and various light and heavy weapons were captured intact by Islamic forces.

Rebels 'Purged' From Villages

LD161048 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran purged a number of villages in a western border area in the new 'Nasr-1' operations, launched Tuesday morning. Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters said Thursday that the operations were launched to repel counterrevolutionary elements from the area, destroy their operational bases, and halt traffic of Iraqi spies and mercenaries.

In these operations, in which units of the headquarters also took part, Muslim combatants inflicted heavy blows on counterrevolutionary forces. Muslim forces while purging a number of villages in this area killed a number of mercenaries of Munaciqeen (MKO) who were spying for Iraq and arrested a number of others.

Opposition Says 47,000 Arrested in 1 Year

LD151154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1710 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] London, April 14 (KUNA) — At least 47,000 people have been arrested inside Iran on political charges in a one-year period ending last month, according to a report here Tuesday. A statement, issued by the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, said of the total 31,000 people have been arrested by Revolutionary Committees and about 9,000 by intelligence organs.

Chief among the charges is public demonstration of political opposition to the government and support to groups seeking to overthrow the regime, the statement pointed out.

Another (?30,000) non-political arrests have been made on a wide-range of reasons, including "improper dress", in the same period, the Mojahedin went on.

Last month the group said 50,000 of its members and supporters inside Iran have been executed since June 1981.

Kharrazi Urges Regional Heads To Clarify Stand

LD151209 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Yazd, April 15, IRNA. — Head of the War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharrazi warned reactionary heads of regional countries and those who support Iraq to make clear their stance towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking at a televised press conference here Wednesday, Kharrazi said that at present Muslim forces of Iran were fully prepared to launch operations against the enemy in any point of the war fronts they wish.

He called on the people to vigilantly confront plots of the enemies of Islam and said that the enemy "is demoralized and is on the verge of collapse. We will continue our sacred defence till the complete defeat of the Iraqi Baathist regime."

Referring to the recent Karbala'-8 operations and victories Muslim combatants of Iran achieved west of the Fish Canal and Jasim River, the WIH head said "We are determined to continue our sacred defence till final victory is achieved."

He hailed epoc-making devotion of the Muslim forces and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was a supporter of the oppressed and Islamic movements in any corner of the world. He also stressed importance of Basij [Mobilization] resistance bases as a means to guarantee continuation of the sacred defence against the aggressor enemy and reiterated the necessity of strengthening war fronts.

Montazeri Urges Oppressed to Fight Tyranny

LD151611 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 15 Apr 87

[text] Qom, Central Province, April 15, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn Ali Montazeri said here Tuesday that the oppressed should stand against tyrants, and that the oppressed and others should support them in their struggle. The ayatollah made the remark to a group of visitors who had participated in the seminar on Islam and Mustazafin (oppressed), held here on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Hadhrat Mahdi (A.S.) and the oppressed week.

Citing passages from the Holy Quran, Ayatollah Montazeri said that the Quran gides the dispossesed to resist the oppressors and in a later stage if he is unable to do so to change his surroundings for the sake of struggle. Therefore, he told the visitors who were accompanied by minister of Ershad; E Islami, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, the Muslims and all those who have been oppressed by eastern or western powers, whose resources are being plundered by these powers, should smash them.

This he said was the nature of the Islamic revolution of Iran, in which the dispossesed revolted against the oppressors, and are wholeheartedly supporting the revolution and all its principles. The ayatollah also lauded their significant contribution to the war efforts. The idea behind holding of the seminar, he said is to make the Muslims and the oppressed realise their potentials and stand up to the oppressors with self-confidence. In order to regain rights of the dispossesed there is need for practical and serious measures, stressed Ayatollah Montazeri.

The foundation of the oppressed which has been established on the order of Imam Khomeyni, he advised, should establish industries, homes, schools and other facilities in villages and remote areas and improve the standard of living of the oppressed.

Bulgarian Minister Condemns Chemical Attacks

LD151240 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text]Tehran, April 15, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov condemned Iraq's renewed deployment of chemical weapons in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday. Foreign Minister Velayati said that the two nations of Iran and Iraq had no problem with each other but that it is the Iraqi Government which caused problems for the two nations and the Muslims in the region.

He stressed that the Iraqi regime was responsible for starting the imposed war and should go away adding that it was the only way to end the war.

The foreign minister stressed that the Iraqi nation should be permitted to choose its own destiny adding that Iran will support Iraq's territorial integrity and its future sovereignty and brook interference.

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Iraq's territorial integrity and its future sovereignty and brook interference.

On the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons and breach of war regulations, Velayati said that despite the 1925 Geneva Convention and views of international organisations and condemnation of several European countries and the recent decisicns of Geneva meeting, Iraq renewed deployment of chemical weapons in a large scale indicating its indifference towards international laws and public opinion of the world.

During the meeting, the Bulgarian minister described his meetings with Iranian officials in agricultural, industries and oil fields as "positive and successful". He also called for expansion of cooperation in various grounds.

Meets Transportation Minister

LD151142 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov confereed with Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Seyyed Kya, here Monday.

Talks were held at the meeting on Tehran-Sofia infrastructural projects, marine, air and land transport cooperation as well as areas in which Iran can increase its imports from that country.

The Iranian minister said that Iran will act independently as much as is possible on infrastructural needs. He did say that the Islamic Republic welcomed the transfer of technology and that it will closely consider increasing its imports from Bulgaria.

At the end of the talks, Khristov extended an invitation to the Iranian minister to visit Bulgaria. The invitation was accepted.

It was also decided at the meeting that expert delegations from the two countries would hold talks on bilateral transport issues here on Wednesday. The results of the talks will be followed during Seyyed Kya's visit to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian foreign trade minister arrived here Sunday, heading a top-ranking delegation for a four-day official visit at the invitation of minister of Agriculture 'Abbas-'Ali Zali.

Truck Exports Discussed

LD151148 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Machine-Building, Toncho Chakurov and his entourage met with Iranian Minister of Heavy Industry Behzad Nabavi, here Monday.

The two ministers discussed Iranian import of lift trucks and cranes from Bulgaria and the export of Renault cars, mini-buses and spare castings parts to that country. They also discussed heavy industrial cooperation.

Delegation Departs

LD160752 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA — The Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, Khristo Khristov, who headed a delegation here to take part in the fourth session of the joint Iran-Bulgarian commission, wrapped up his four day visit and left Tehran Thursday morning. He told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport that his talks with Iranian officials were "very fruitful and useful".

Khristov said that according to agreements reached between the two countries, bilateral ties would increase in comparison to the past year.

Agriculture minister 'Abbas-'Ali Zali who was present at the airport to see off the Bulgarian guests, said that volume of trade between the two countries for the current year was predicted to be around 500 million dollars.

Zali added that the volume of Iran's non-oil exports to Bulgaria will increase to 25 percent of the total exports from the previous 20 percent. The two sides will also cooperate in the fields of pedology, training of experts for the study of forests and aquatic life, completion of semi-constructed projects for producing livestock feed, and rural cooperatives.